



STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Mike Dunleavy, Governor*  
*Julie Sande, Commissioner*  
*Keith Kurber II, Chairman*

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**Regulatory Commission of Alaska**

April 21, 2023

In reply refer to: Engineering Section  
LO#: L2300141

Timothy G. Barnum  
General Manager  
Middle Kuskokwim Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 53  
Cherokee Village, AR 72525

Dear Mr. Barnum:

In response to a letter from the Crooked Creek Traditional Council (Council) regarding unreliable electric utility service provided by Middle Kuskokwim Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MKEC), we required MKEC to file outage reports in compliance with 3 AAC 52.490(b)(2) for each of the villages served by MKEC for the years 2021 and 2022.<sup>1</sup> We also required MKEC to file the annual outage reports specified in 3 AAC 52.490(b)(3) for each of the past ten years. In addition, we required additional information from MKEC, including documents describing the current condition of utility infrastructure in the MKEC service area, and description of any repairs, plant replacement, improvements or operational changes implemented by MKEC to furnish electric utility service.<sup>2</sup> Copies of the letter orders described above are attached for your reference. To date, no reports have been filed by MKEC.

On March 29, 2023, we conducted a special public meeting to facilitate a discussion between the Council and MKEC regarding electric service quality issues in Crooked Creek, Alaska. The Council members at the meeting recalled recurring electric service outages of substantial duration, and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kuskokwim Corporation noted the permanent disconnection of six homes in the community of Crooked Creek. This contradicts MKEC's response to our request for outage reports.<sup>3</sup> The commenters also noted that the outages affected other utilities and service facilities, including the community post office and school. Further, the commenters asserted that MKEC was not forthcoming and responsive to their concerns.

The comments at the public meeting indicate ongoing service issues implicating MKEC's ability to provide and maintain reliable, adequate, efficient and safe electric utility service. We require MKEC to file reports of all 2023 service outages, and service outages for the years 2021 and 2022, consistent with the requirements of 3 AAC 52.490. The outage reports for 2021, 2022, and past 2023 service outages shall be filed no later than May 1, 2023. The

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter Order No. L2300085, issued March 10, 2023, at 1–2.

<sup>2</sup> See Letter Order No. L2300088, issued March 15, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> See letter from MKEC, filed March 28, 2023 (TR2301263) at 1.

reports for future 2023 service outages should be filed with us no later than five business days after the conclusion of the outage, and must include:

- (a) the location and time of the outage;
- (b) the duration of the outage;
- (c) the total number of customers affected and the number of customers without service at periodic intervals;
- (d) the cause of the outage if known;
- (e) the number of fatalities and personal injuries; and
- (f) each individual to be contacted by the commission for additional information

We also require MKEC to file monthly progress reports on its actions to establish planning and preventative maintenance procedures under 3 AAC 52.460(d) designed to provide a reasonable level of uninterrupted service and to speed the restoration of service when outages do occur in Crooked Creek. These monthly reports shall be filed no later than the last day of the month following the month being reported on. The monthly report must include:

- 1) a list of electric generation, transmission, and distribution facilities in Crooked Creek;<sup>4</sup>
- 2) current status of these facilities (e.g., operational, not operational and an explanation why the facility is not in operation, standby, spare);
- 3) total number of potential customers (those within the geographic area of Crooked Creek that has been served by MKEC in the past), with a breakout indicating:
  - (a) how many customers have had service outages of any duration during the month;
  - (b) how many potential customers were disconnected from electric utility service during the month and the basis for each such disconnection; and
  - (c) whether any service outages or disconnections were related to generation capacity constraints in Crooked Creek;
- 4) repairs performed;
- 5) schedule of maintenance; and
- 6) short-term and long-term plans to improve facilities and improve the quality of electric service to customers.

Should you need further assistance on this matter please contact Jess Manaois, Engineering Utility Analyst, at [john.paul.manaois@alaska.gov](mailto:john.paul.manaois@alaska.gov).

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION

Sincerely,

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

*Keith Kurber II*

Keith Kurber II (Apr 21, 2023 08:35 AKDT)

Keith Kurber II  
Chairman

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<sup>4</sup> MKEC may file a copy of its continuing property records that includes all generation and transmission assets in Crooked Creek.